



STATE OF UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NORMAN H. BANGERTE, GOVERNOR

SUZANNE DANDOO, M.D., M.P.H., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



March 21, 1985
533-4145

Eric Johnson
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region VIII
999 18th Street
Denver, Colorado 80203

Subject: Preliminary Assessment Report
IRECO Chemicals, Site A
Pelican Point - Lehi, Utah

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Submitted herewith is a final preliminary assessment report for IRECO Chemicals, Site A.

Based on the available information it is recommended that this site receive a low priority.

IRECO is a non military manufacturer of explosives. Site A is located on U.S. Bureau of Land Management property near Pelican Point on the west bank of Utah Lake. Site A has three bentonite lined TNT pink/red waste water evaporation ponds and a burn pit.

In 1982 IRECO petitioned the state of Utah for an exclusion of the pink/red waste water from being regulated. IRECO's grounds for exclusion were based on IRECO's conclusion that their pink/red water sludge was non reactive in a 1981 test. IRECO attempted to detonate dried samples of sludge using a "standard high explosive booster". All detonation attempts failed. On April 14, 1982 the Utah Solid and Hazardous Waste committee granted an exclusion to IRECO (and all others concerned) for pink/red water produced in TNT operations.

IRECO also has a variance from the Utah Air Quality Committee to operate a burn pit. Waste explosives, cardboard, wooden pallets, and other trash are burned. The basic combustion products are alumina (solid state) 15 to 20%, metal oxides (solid state) 10 to 15%, water vapor 45%, carbon dioxide 18%, and nitrogen 2 to 12%.

KENNETH L. ALKEMA, DIRECTOR • DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The TNT pink/red water sludge may possess ignitable or reactive characteristics when dry. The ponds have accumulated sludge since they were initially used. Therefore there is a potential for fire or explosive conditions which may endanger wildlife, livestock, aquatic life, vegetation, air quality and the local population (employees, recreational, residential, etc.).

There is also a potential that contaminated runoff may migrate to near-by Utah Lake. Contaminates entering the Lake may also impose adverse environmental effects on the fauna, flora, and man.

If you have any questions concerning this IRECO Chemicals, Site A preliminary assessment please contact Connie S. Nakahara at (801) 533-4145.

Sincerely,



Dale D. Parker, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary
Utah Solid and Hazardous Wastes
Committee

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